

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/656,336

ART UNIT 2879
Q77365

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement set forth in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a replacement sheet for Fig. 2, wherein "D" has been amended to --d--. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is respectfully requested.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are presently pending in this application, all of which are rejected over prior art.

The objection to the drawing on page 2 of the Office Action is believed to be overcome by the amendment of Fig. 2 submitted concurrently herewith.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Uemura, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0128580). The Examiner also rejects claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uemura in view of Uchiyama, *et al.* (EP 0859246). These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Each of the independent claims is hereby amended to recite that both ends of the light emitting tube are “sealed by molybdenum pipes in which the electrodes are fixed and held respectively.”

These amendments are supported by the Specification at pages 24 and 25, by way of example.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references clearly fail to teach or fairly suggest the invention as now more particularly claimed.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points

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remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

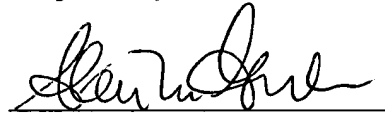
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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



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